Socialist Worker

Peace Process fails to deliver

Almost one year following the ceasefire, very little has changed for the vast majority of people in the North. Frustration at this has led to an increased tension, seen in the riots over the past month.

The marches by Orange bigots through Catholic areas show that sectarianism is still alive and kicking . This is precisely because the Peace Process is not delivering on any of its promises. Arch bigots like Paisley can direct peoples anger back along sectarian lines.

The continuing sectarianism of the State and its security forces have also been exposed. When Orange protests blocked the ferry in Larne no one was arrested. This is in stark contrast to the events in Derry, where Republicans were attacked and arrested by the RUC for protesting during John Major's visit.

The price paid by the republicans for involvement in the Peace Process is the moderating of even their most basic demands. As we approach the 26th anniversary of the British troops' arrival the slogan "Troops Out " has been replaced by "Time to move."

Of course the British government should recognise Sinn Fein's right to all party talks but talks with John Major will achieve nothing. The Tories have continuously dragged their feet on making any concessions. They freed and promoted Lee Clegg but have refused to free the political prisoners in the north.

It is also clear that we cannot rely on right wing politicians like Bruton and Clinton to offer anything to the working class in the North. Their record is of being ruthless to the poorest in their own country.

The peace process offers nothing to working class people. Instead of challenging sectarianism it hopes to manage it, admitting that there is no possibility of bringing both communities together. It will only serve to institutionalise competition between protestant and catholic workers for jobs and resources and fuel sectarian tension and division.

A lasting peace can only be based on an outcome that advances and improves the position of both protestant and catholic workers. This means linking demands on the British presence, on the prisoners etc. with demands for jobs, decent wages, trade union rights and the fight for the health service.

To do this we need to go beyond the politics of nationalism and build a organisation committed to fighting both the rotten states on this island. The SWP is building such a party. Join us.

Join the Socialists!

Name _____ Address _____

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